



# Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 1997      **Cost:** \$4.7 million  
**Project Area:** 5,210 acres      **Status:** Construction  
**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 2,386 acres  
**Project Type:** Water Diversion

## Location

The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, within the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

## Problems

The Mississippi River Delta is one of the hallmark symbols of Louisiana's rich natural heritage. Unfortunately, natural and man-made alterations to the Mississippi River have changed the hydrology of the river and impeded the natural wetland building processes in the delta. The construction of levees to protect commercial shipping lanes has reduced natural sedimentation and freshwater flow, causing deterioration of wetlands and saltwater intrusion. Crevasses are breaks in the levees that allow the river to deposit sediments into adjacent shallow bays. This restoration project mimics the natural process of crevasse formation that was responsible for building much of the Mississippi River Delta.

## Proposed Solution

The project consists of maintaining presently existing crevasse splays, the construction of new crevasse splays and plugs, and future maintenance of selected crevasse splays in both the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge. A crevasse splay is a sub-delta within a river delta. The objective is to promote the formation of emergent freshwater and intermediate marsh.



An example of a crevasse splay as viewed from the river side looking into the receiving area.

## Progress to Date

The first dredging cycle of construction is complete; three dredging cycles are scheduled in the future.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 6.

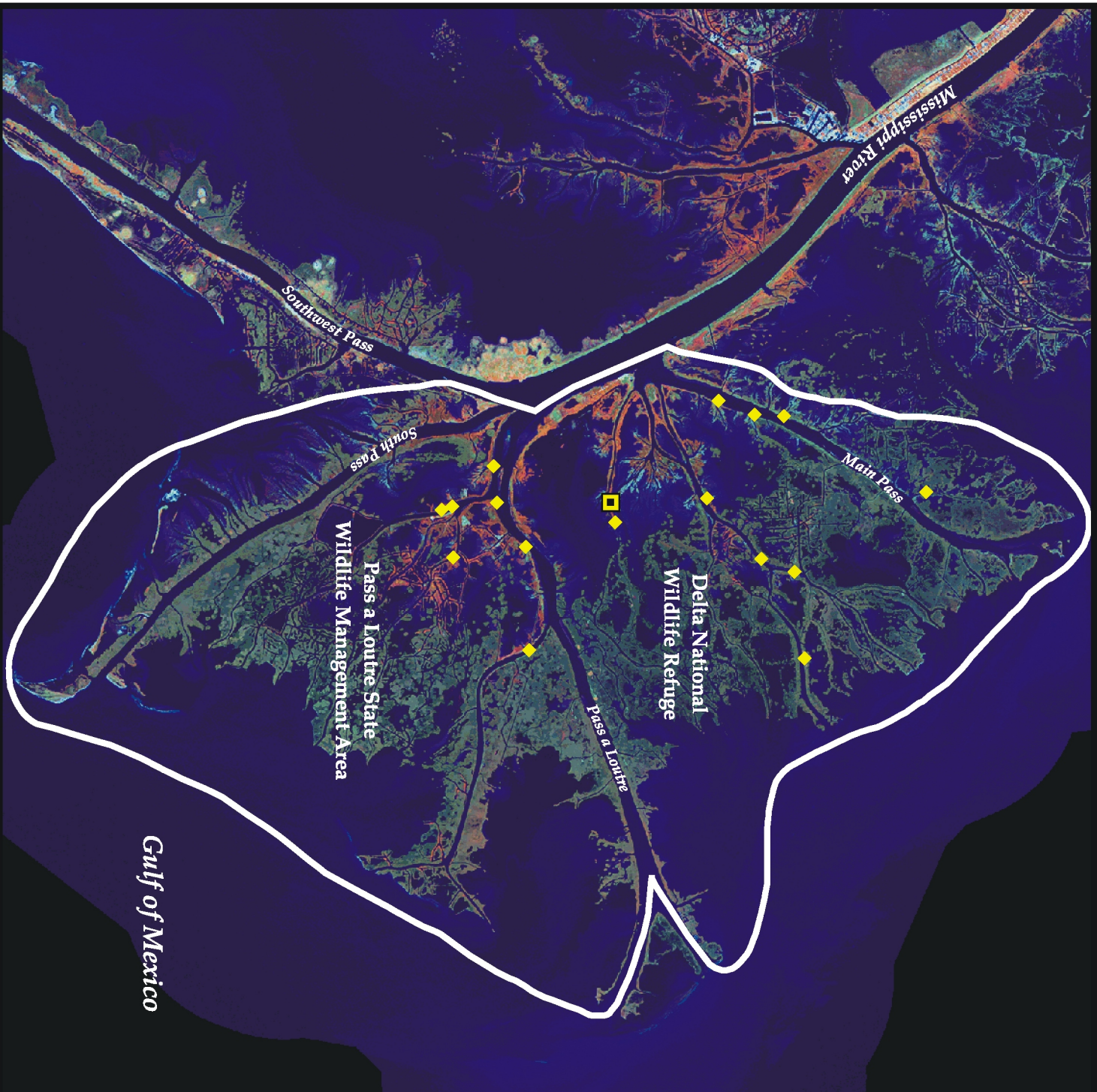
*For more project information, please contact:*



**Federal Sponsor:**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 389-0508



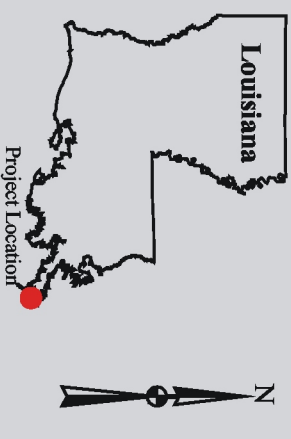
**Local Sponsor:**  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-7308



## Delta Wide Crevasse (MR-09)

-  Plug
-  Crevasse
-  Project Boundary

**USGS**  
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Map Produced By:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Wetlands Research Center  
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:  
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